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***Agents Wanted to Kill Barbie,
Ex-U.S. Army Officer Claims***

DAYTON, Ohio, March 27 (AP)—A former Army officer claims that U.S. agents wanted to kill Nazi Gestapo officer Klaus Barbie rather than turn him over to French intelligence after World War II, the Dayton Daily News reported today.

U.S. and French agents disliked and mistrusted each other, and at one point American agents even drew straws to determine who would carry out the assassination, said Gene Bramel, a sergeant in the 66th Army Counter-Intelligence Corps in Augsburg, Germany, from 1950 to 1952.

Bramel described what he thinks happened instead: "We were informed the Air Force had come up with an alternate plan to blowing [Barbie's] brains out, and that was to get him to South America."

Bramel said he didn't believe the unit's chief "would ever have made that big of a move without the approval of DAD," the Department of Army Detachment, which Bramel said agents believed was a cover for the CIA in Germany.

Bramel, now a representative of a student exchange program, said that after World War II his unit worked with Barbie to gather information on the German Communist Party and to coordinate the activities of Europeans running "safe houses."

"We trusted the French just about as much as we did the Russians," he said. "Here was an intelligence service that we [didn't trust] wanting a man . . . who could identify every safe house [used in intelligence work], who could identify indigenous personnel who worked [for us], and we could not allow this . . . We could not let the French have him."

Barbie, now 69, fled Germany to South America, reportedly in 1951. Bolivia expelled him last month, and he was flown to France for trial on charges of "crimes against humanity."